(a) whether Government are aware that the Third Minor Irrigation Census (2000-01) has mentioned that about 85,000 tanks and other storages are not in use, predominantly due to situation and other factors like of maintenance, encroachment etc.;

(b) if so, what is the estimate of Government regarding the quantum of loss of water per year;

(c) whether Government have identified certain tanks etc. out of above 85,000 for desiltification;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the schemes proposed to be undertaken; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to improve the scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantum of loss of water per year is estimated by State Governments as water is a State subject.

(c) to (e) Government of India has sanctioned a pilot scheme "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies directly linked to Agriculture" in January, 2005 with an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crores, to be implemented by States during the remaining period of Tenth Plan. The aims and the objectives of the scheme are to restore and augment storage capacities of water bodies and to recover and extend their lost irrigation potential. The water bodies having culturable Command Area of 40 ha. up to 2000 ha. are included under the Pilot Scheme in one or two districts in the State. Projects for restoration of water bodies have been approved in 24 districts of 14 States at an estimated cost of Rs. 296.87 crore. These district projects cover 1076 water bodies.

Disputes on dam safety

1472. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dispute between States on the strength of dam to store the water;

(b) if so, the details of such dams including the year of construction, model of construction, type of materials used for construction, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) the steps taken to examine and revalidate the strength of such dams in details as on today, category-wise;

(d) the steps taken to resolve the issues of dam safety in details; and

(e) the details of steps taken for consensus on the above dispute as on today, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a dispute between the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu on the safety of Mullaperiyar Dam.

(b) Mullaperiyar Dam was constructed during 1887-95 across Periyar river. The front and rear faces of the dam are of stone masonry. The core of the dam is made from mixture of lime, surkhi and stones.

(c) A team headed by the then Chairman, CWC inspected the dam in 1979 and suggested strengthening measures.

(d) and (e) Most of the strengthening measures have since been completed by the Government of Tamil Nadu, who is the custodian of the dam. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed an order on 25.09.2006 stating that "the two State Governments independently or with the intervention of the Union of India may try to sort out, if possible, the dispute." In this regard, a meeting was taken by Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) with the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Kerala on 29th November, 2006 in New Delhi.

Utilization of waste water

†1473. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the better management and utilization of water, Government are considering upon to make law etc. regarding the utilization of waste water, water harvesting etc.;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.